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A Distinguished Patriot

Allen W. Dulles, who died the other day at 75, served the United States diligently in two major high level assignments that helped win one war and possibly prevent many other conflicts.

During World War II, The one-time career diplomat was European head of the famed Office of Strategic Services (OSS), directing espionage activities against the Nazis and Fascist Italy. One of the most remarkable intelligence coups during that period was the placing of an allied agent in the Nazi foreign office, a feat that reportedly gave the allies access to every message that crossed the desk of Hitler's foreign minister.

Later, Mr. Dulles joined his older brother, the late John Foster Dulles, in the Eisenhower administration. John Foster Dulles served as secretary of state from 1953 until his death in 1959 and Allen Dulles was director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1953 to 1961.

This remarkable brother team, the nation's top diplomat and No. 1 espionage expert, helped President Eisenhower guide the United States peacefully through a critical period of the Cold War struggle. Both Mr. Dulles and his older brother endured criticism and many international crises.

But there were no wars, despite numerous provocations and the constant hostility of the Communist bloc. Because of the work of Allen Dulles' agents, the United States knew it had the military power to defeat the Soviet Union and its satellites in any conflict. That knowledge and the efforts of the Eisenhower administration to maintain superior U.S. military power provided a deterrent that kept the peace for eight critical years.

The nation owes a debt of gratitude to Allen Dulles for his distinguished service in sensitive assignments that shaped history.